

Newark Star Ledger
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March 25, 1985

Dear Editor,

Rent control was passed in Newark in 1973 because there was a housing crisis - not enough decent affordable apartments.

In 1985, the housing situation has grown worse, not better. So the need for the protection provided by rent control remains stronger than ever.

Therefore, our organization, the Vailsburg Block Association Council, is opposed to measures which will weaken the rent control law, and cause increases in rents which Newark residents cannot afford to pay.

We are against the proposal to eliminate rent control from 4 family buildings (owner occupied). There will be no limit to how high rents will rise in these buildings, and those who cannot pay will be homeless.

We are also opposed to the proposal for vacancy decontrol (which the proposal renames as "rehabilitation"). This proposal means rents can be raised by 25% - 4 times as fast as they are increasing now. Proposals like this have been passed in Hoboken and Jersey City, and are one of the reasons that poor and working people are being driven out of these towns. Rents have doubled, tripled, or more.

Newark residents cannot afford these uncontrolled increases. People already pay 6% per year plus extra for increases in taxes and utilities. These unfair proposals will mean Newark residents will not be able to afford these apartments.

Our organization wishes to go on record as opposed to these proposals. We will be watching the City Council to see who votes to weaken tenant rights, and who votes to protect them.

Ron Dennis, President
Vailsburg Block Association Council